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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,962	08/21/2003	Joan L. Mitchell	00240086AA	7588
30743	7590	03/15/2007	EXAMINER	
WHITHAM, CURTIS & CHRISTOFFERSON & COOK, P.C.			ALAVI, AMIR	
11491 SUNSET HILLS ROAD			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 340				
RESTON, VA 20190			2624	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	03/15/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/644,962	MITCHELL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Amir Alavi	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-18 and 23-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-11, 19-22 and 26 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20031218.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

Election/Restrictions

- This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 12-18 and 23-25 directed to an invention non-elected with traverse in the reply filed on 15 January 2007. Applicant is given ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the date of this letter, whichever is longer, to cancel the noted claims or take other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144). Failure to take action during this period will be treated as authorization to cancel the noted claims by Examiner's Amendment and pass the case to issue. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will not be permitted since this application will be passed to issue.
- The prosecution of this case is closed except for consideration of the above matter.

Specification

- The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 48, the text should fit the page as compatible with other pages.
- Appropriate correction is required.

Allowable Subject Matter

- Claims 1-11, 19-22 and 26 are allowed.
- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed towards a method for improving decoding throughput of compressed image data. The closest prior art, Nelson et al. (USPN 5,170,445), shows a similar system, in which, a code parser decodes coded compressed image information into an intermediate code. A code expander operating asynchronously relative to the code parser decompresses the compressed image information in accordance with such decoded information. A window register in the code parser has a length at least as long as the longest code in the intermediate code. When the intermediate code indicates a pattern in one line in a raster scan of an image corresponding to a pattern in an immediately preceding line, the window register and associated circuitry scan the one line and provide for the decompression in such line in accordance with the decompression at the corresponding positions in the preceding line. However, Nelson et al. fail to address: "for recompressing an intermediate code in accordance with a compressed format compatible with a hardware image decoder forming recompressed image data, said recompressing step being

performed in a lossy manner and decoding said recompressed image data
with said hardware image decoder, whereby software processing for
decoding of said compressed image data is reduced by hardware decoding of
said recompressed image data". These distinct features have been added to
the sole independent claim and renders it allowable.

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amir Alavi whose telephone number is 571-272-7386. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu.. 8:00 am thru 6:30pm.
- If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen D. Lillis can be reached on 571-272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

- Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AA
Technology Division 2624
14 March 2007

AMIR ALAVI
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
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